

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 221973
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 /024 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:D/LOS:TOKADA
APPROVED BY:D/LOS:ABERLIND
-----062522 011327Z /45
R 312111Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0136

UNCLAS STATE 221973

PASS SANDY WINSTON LOS DEL

FOL HALIFAX 0454 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO OTTAWA AUG 30, 1978

QUOTE
UNCLAS HALIFAX 0454

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN PLOS CA US
SUBJECT: US STATEMENT ON SEABED MINING: PRESS COMMENT

1. AUG 30 HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD HAS EDITORIAL PAGE
BY-LINED ARTICLE BY PETER MEERBURG, CANADIAN AFFAIRS
EDITOR, WHICH CRITICIZES CONTENTION OF AMB RICHARDSON
THAT INDIVIDUAL STATES AND THEIR NATIONALS HAVE THE
LEGAL RIGHT TO EXPLOIT DEEP SEA MINERAL RESOURCES
UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF THE HIGH SEAS.
MEERBURG MENTIONS DIFFICULT AND PROLONGED LOS
NEGOTIATIONS AND CONCLUDES THAT RECENT PROGRESS HAD
LED TO A DEGREE OF HOPE THAT AN INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CODE
WAS WITHIN SIGHT. HE GOES ON TO SAY:

NOW, HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 221973

WHOLE EXERCISE IS IN DANGER OF GOING
DOWN THE DRAIN, BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE
LOBBYING OF THE U.S. CONGRESS BY MULTI-
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH MINERAL
INTERESTS, AND THEIR STAUNCH ALLEGIANCE
TO "FREEDOM OF THE HIGH SEAS", SMACKING

OF 19TH CENTURY COLONIALISM.

2. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES STATEMENT MADE BY DOD ASST SECY DAVID MCGIFFERT LAST YEAR TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO THE EFFECT THAT, FROM DOD S POINT OF VIEW, NO IMMEDIATE NEED IS SEEN FOR DEEP SEABED MINERALS. MEERBURG BELIEVES THAT THIS STATEMENT HARDLY JIBES WITH AMB RICHARDSON S CLAIM THAT US CAN NO LONGER DEFER DEEP SEA MINING,

...IN THE FACE OF THE WORLD S LONG-RANGE NEED FOR MINERALS, AND THE MORE IMMEDIATE NEED TO PROCEED WITH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL, IN TURN, LEAD TO THE BEGINNING OF COMMERCIAL MINING.

3. NOT OVERLOOKED IN ARTICLE IS FACT THAT ONE OF THE KEY PRIZES IN UNDERSEA MINING WILL BE NICKEL, AND THAT US ACCESS TO THIS UNDERSEA TROVE CAN BE EXPECTED TO IMPACT ADVERSELY ON CANADA S LAND-BASED NICKEL INDUSTRY. MOORE UNQUOTE VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINING, PRESS COMMENTS, SEABED
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE221973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TOKADA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780357-1190
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaaflef.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 21bdf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1582734
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970821
Subject: US STATEMENT ON SEABED MINING: PRESS COMMENT
TAGS: EMIN, PLOS, SOPN, CA, US
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21bdf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014